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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [POL](#)  
SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: URGENT MEETING OF CONTACT GROUP  
ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

¶1. The United States will host an urgent meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on May 29, ¶2009. Posts and missions are requested to deliver the talking points in paragraph 2 and encourage active participation by capitals in this important plenary session. This message is INFO ONLY for Embassy Nicosia. The Cypriots should not/not be invited.

¶2. Talking points:

- The United States joins with the international community in urging more aggressive action to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. We, along with many other countries, are committed to helping the Somali government build its capacity to govern its territory, in particular through assistance to the Somali security institutions and the African Union Mission in Somalia.

- However, we also share a sense of urgency in tackling the problem of piracy at sea. To that end, we urge Contact Group countries and organizations to consider the following items for discussion at the May 29 meeting:

- Assigning additional counter-piracy forces to augment those already on patrol in the region;

- Adopting national policies that will support detention and prosecution of suspected pirates;
- Pressing victim states to accept responsibility for prosecuting pirates;
- Urging national commercial ship owners to improve ship self-protection and call for insurance incentives to support investment in such capability; and
- Adopting policies that will deny pirates the benefits of concessions that fuel piracy.

- We plan to call for the creation of a Fifth Working Group to explore the feasibility of tracking and freezing pirate assets, and would welcome offers by countries to lead and/or serve on this Working Group.

¶3. If-asked talking points:

- The U.S. will support requests for participation in the CGPCS by Canada, Liberia, Nigeria, Malaysia, Panama, and Singapore.
- Regarding Republic of Cyprus (ROC) participation, the U.S. has not taken a position on Cypriot participation in the CGPCS since the ROC has not formally submitted a request to participate. Should the ROC submit a request for participation, the U.S. would consider the request in consultation with other CGPCS participants.

¶4. Department points of contact for this meeting are David Foran, PM/PPA, 202-647-7162, forandm@state.gov; Aiyaz Husain, 202-647- 6058, husaina2@state.gov; or Donna Hopkins, PM/PPA, 202-647-0792, hopkinsdl@state.gov. Additional information concerning the CGPCS is available on the Department Intranet site at [www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/othr/misc/121054.htm](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/othr/misc/121054.htm).  
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